



# News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MEDIA CONTACT**  
**Tasya Peterson**  
**602-542-4296**  
[TasyaPeterson@azdes.gov](mailto:TasyaPeterson@azdes.gov)

## **DES Office of the Inspector General Partners with Pima County Sheriff's Office, DEA and AHCCCS on Fraud Arrests** *Gildardo Vallez and Carmen Gill Arrested*

**PHOENIX** – DES Director Timothy Jeffries today announced its Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Office of Special Investigations (OSI) successfully partnered with the Pima County Sheriff's Department (PCSD), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), in conducting an investigation of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and AHCCCS benefit fraud, which culminated in the execution of three search warrants and two arrests.

"Fraud on any level is absolutely unacceptable," said Director Timothy Jeffries. "Stealing from the poor is reprehensible. Anyone who commits fraud against agencies which support those in desperate need of nutrition and medical benefits must be found and prosecuted. I'd like to thank our local, state and federal partners for working together to bring these criminals to justice."

"The DES OIG is grateful to have worked in unison with our partners to put an end to this sophisticated fraud scheme," said Inspector General Juan J. Arcellana. "It is particularly gratifying that the joint task force was able to detect and to eliminate fraud that encompassed multiple benefit programs."

On September 2, 2015, PCSD and the U.S. DEA served three search warrants at three separate residences and arrested Mr. Gildardo Vallez and Ms. Carmen Gill. PCSD seized incriminating documents, weapons and narcotics at the residences. Mr. Vallez and Ms. Gill are suspected of committing SNAP fraud in the amount of \$7,297.00 and AHCCCS fraud in the amount of \$6,250.37.

The two are also suspected of having involvement in drug trafficking criminal activities. The investigation is ongoing. Therefore, additional details are not available at this time.

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